

September 1, 2020

Vermont Community Development Board
Agency of Commerce & Community Development
1 National Life Drive, #6
Montpelier, VT 05620

RE: VCDP Application for the Town of Westford

Dear Board members:

On behalf of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, I am writing this letter to express strong support for the Town of Westford's application to the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). This funding will enable the Town of Westford to conduct essential planning and pre-development work related to redeveloping a key property in the Town Center that has potential to provide much needed affordable housing and recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors.

Further, I am writing this letter to confirm that this project is consistent with the *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan*. The *ECOS Plan* combines both the Chittenden County Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into one. This project plans future development in an area planned for growth (the project is in the Village Planning Area, an area planned for growth as defined in the *ECOS Plan*). This project will also directly help implement the following strategies and actions of the *ECOS Plan*:

1. Strategy 1: Improve and strengthen the economic systems of our region to increase opportunities for Vermont employers and employees.
2. Strategy 2: Strive for 80% of new development in areas planned for growth; which amounts to 15% of our land area. Furthermore, this kind of development will directly help achieve this strategy by implementing Action #1 ("Invest in areas planned for growth through infrastructure investments (including water and wastewater infrastructure) and rehabilitation investments") and Action #3 ("Producing more affordable housing helps meet basic needs, creates jobs and 50-year hard assets. This is a critical part of the infrastructure of the community and the economy").

Furthermore, I am writing to confirm that if the Town of Westford is awarded the VCDP funding, CCRPC is available to assist with grant administration and program management. Our \$5,000 cost estimate for this general administration work is based on current billing rates and the level of effort that will be required to complete this work.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact me at 802-846-4490 x23 or cbaker@ccrpcvt.org. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued efforts in investment in our region.

Best regards,



Charles Baker
Executive Director